

East Africa Cup Kick-off Coach Education System

The East Africa Cup, one of the most successful and well known sport and development tournaments in Africa, is to be used as a platform to support the recognition, training and development of *community* coaches in the region.

Run under the banner 'much more than only sport' the East Africa Cup is held annually in Tanzania and incorporates education, culture and life skills development as well as sport activity. Over 1,300 participants from Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda take part in the event organised and coordinated by CHRISC East Africa, MYSA Kenya, Norwegian People's Aid and KRIK Norway.

In March the organisations responsible for running the Cup initiated a *community* coach education system project that has been named the East Africa *community* Coach Education System (EACCES). The EACCES initiative focuses in part on maximising coach development opportunities at the Cup. However, the main thrust of the project is to establish a coordinated system to recognise, coordinate and support the on-going training and development of *community* coaches in participating organisations' home environments.

"The theme of this year's cup is "*one week in Moshi, one year in the community,*" explained East Africa Cup Organising Committee Chairman George Kamau. "The *community* coaching systems project aligns closely with this concept focusing on developing guidelines that can enhance the overall development of *community* coaches within our organisations."

A number of training programmes are already in place across agencies participating in the East Africa Cup. EACCES aims to formalise the recognition, understanding and support for this training while identifying what can add value to the programmes already in place.

"The EACCES is not about duplicating existing training, instead it is about highlighting what training is appropriate for coaches with different levels of experience and recognising this across our organisations," Kamau said. "The system will also allow us to recognise good practice but also develop gap areas, not only in training, but the on-going support and monitoring of our coaches."

"When we talk about *community* coaching and sport leadership in sport-for-development organisations it is clear that the sport aspect is important, but so is the coach's role in supporting life skill development, organising community members and ensuring the participants are safe."

"Through EACCES we will look at systematically identifying these different key skills required by *community* coaches, formally documenting and recognising this."

The development of the EACCES is being led by a working group identified by the East Africa Cup Executive Committee. The working group is made up of representatives from MYSA Kenya, CHRISC Kenya, CHRISC Rwanda, Kicking AIDS Out! Network, Tackle Africa and UK Sport's ICES team.

The working group has been tasked with establishing parameters for the EACCES including:

- Outlining a coordinated pathway and recognition system for *community* coaches across EAC sport-for-development organisations.
- Setting guidelines on the capabilities required by *community* coaches at different levels of the pathway.

- Highlighting the follow up, support and recognition systems that assist quality *community* coaching.
- Mapping current training, follow-up and support programming against this pathway and guidelines.
- Recognising good practice and developing gap areas.

The working group will use this year's East Africa Cup to consult with participants, coaches and officials to inform and guide the development of EACCES.

For more information on the East Africa Cup visit <http://eacup.org/>.

For an overview of the agencies in the working group click on the links below:

- [MYSA Kenya](#)
- [CHRISC Kenya](#); [CHRISC Tanzania](#); [CHRISC Rwanda](#); [CHRISC Uganda](#)
- [Kicking AIDS Out!](#)
- [Tackle Africa](#)